



**Office of the Attorney General
Paul G. Summers**

NEWS RELEASE

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TENNESSEE RECEIVES \$140 MILLION IN ANNUAL TOBACCO PAYMENT

Tennessee has received its annual payment totaling \$141,059,832 as part of the 1998 Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement, Tennessee Attorney General Paul G. Summers announced today.

The payment came at the same time several tobacco companies refused to pay their entire annual payments required by the Master Settlement Agreement. Under the agreement, all major tobacco companies must make annual payments to 46 states.

"We are pleased Phillip Morris has honored its agreement unlike some of the other companies who have refused to make the payments they consented to in the original agreement," Attorney General Summers said. "We will actively pursue the rest of the money Tennessee is owed."

Attorney General Summers filed suit Wednesday against a number of tobacco companies that are parties to the landmark 1998 Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement to collect the full payment Tennessee is owed. The national agreement required substantial annual payments to the States and placed specific marketing restrictions on the tobacco companies.